



BOROUGH OF CHATHAM

ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1950

J. O. MURRAY, M.D., D.P.H.,

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List of Members of the Chatham Council

THE MAYOR (Alderman F. H. Lawrence, J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Alderman E. G. Maynard)

Alderman H. J. Stearne.

Alderman W. F. Hollands.

Alderman W. Blackmore.

Alderman J. Presnail.

Councillor R. Homden.

Councillor A. S. Price, J.P.

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Councillor D. D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch.

Councillor R. Foster.

Councillor F. C. Manington.

Councillor A. G. C. Brown.

Councillor F. B. Hodges.

Councillor T. T. Myles.

Public Health Committee

This consists of the whole of the members of the Council.

CHAIRMAN : Councillor G. W. Rhodes

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Councillor D. D. Barker, M.B., B.Ch.

Public Health Officers

Medical Officer of Health :

(Combined appointment with City of Rochester)

J. O. Murray, M.D., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Medical Officer Kent County Council :

(Combined appointment with City of Rochester)

J. H. Whittles, T.D., M.D., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Thomas Howard (a) (b)

Senior District Sanitary Inspector :

A. E. South (a) (b)

District Sanitary Inspectors :

H. Taylor (a) (b), R. W. Wright (a) (b)

Chief Clerk :

Miss J. F. Coffey

Clerks :

Miss S. Springate, O. Thomas

(a) Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.

(b) Meat Inspector's Certificate.

Borough of Chatham

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
 "ELM HOUSE,"
 15 NEW ROAD AVENUE,
 CHATHAM.

July, 1951.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Chatham.

YOUR WORSHIP AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Report for 1950.

POPULATION 46,500 : LIVE BIRTHS 746 : STILL BIRTHS 27 :
 DEATHS 512

The estimated population, including forces stationed in the area, was considerably less than the previous year, being 46,500 as compared with 54,420. This reduction is associated with a reallocation of service residents between Chatham and Gillingham which was made by the Registrar General.

In 1950 as compared with 1949 there were 151 fewer births, 19 less deaths, 1 less infant death and an increase of 8 in the number of still births.

INFANT DEATHS. Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births = 32.17.

Of 24 babies under 1 year of age who died, 9 succumbed within 24 hours from birth, the cause of death in 8 being prematurity. 16 of the 24 deaths occurred before the age of 1 month.

FATAL ACCIDENTS

The following table indicates that in the past five years deaths from accidents were just over half the number due to all forms of Tuberculosis.

FATAL ACCIDENTS 1946-1950 (excluding 16 deaths from fractured femur in aged persons).

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Total
Deaths from Road Traffic						
Accidents	2	2	3	3	6	16
Other forms of Violence ...	11	23	9	11	11	65
Total Fatal Accidents ...	13	25	12	14	17	81
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all forms)	37	34	38	30	22	161

The Annual death roll from road accidents in the country, whilst appalling, is exceeded by those occurring in and about the home. The most important causative factor is carelessness and deaths from such things as burns, scalds and electrocution could easily be reduced by the exercise of a little care and a little thought on potential risks.

In addition to the loss of life, discomfort and disability caused by accidents, the cost of treatment and the loss of working time is a heavy burden on the national finances and any expenditure in prevention would be a sound investment.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (see page 16).

MEASLES

A Measles epidemic (567 notified cases) began in March, 1950, reached its peak in April and terminated in August, 1950. There was 1 death.

WHOOPING COUGH

There was also a small epidemic of Whooping Cough, 137 cases, with no fatality.

DIPHTHERIA

No case of Diphtheria has been notified during the past 3 years.

In 1950, 622 children were immunized against Diphtheria and 235 received a reinforcing dose.

ENTERIC INFECTIONS

20 cases of mild Dysentery and 2 of Food Poisoning were notified.

TYPHOID FEVER

A local resident was notified as suffering from Typhoid Fever a few days after he had left the district. Investigation showed that the infection was not acquired locally, but was finally traced to its source which was an intermittent carrier who was resident in the same holiday resort at the same time as the notified case. Tests from both patient and carrier showed the same type of infection, E.I.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

It is estimated that at least half the atmospheric pollution is due to domestic coal fires, the remedy for which is the use of gas, electricity or smokeless fuel fires. This is obviously the wrong time to suggest a revolutionary conversion of domestic heating but it will have to be considered in due course if we want a pure air and a clean environment.

Industrial atmospheric pollution from solid fuel consumption does occur but in only a few cases does a nuisance arise, and that in spite of all practical steps taken to avoid it. The main trouble seems to be that the offending boilers are being called on to provide heat and power beyond their normal capacity and, as in the case of domestic heating, the difficulties in remedying this are at the moment insurmountable.

The cement industry has for many years been an important industry on the Medway and presents a local problem. Whilst there is no evidence to show that cement dust is inimical to health, it is objectionable. Efficient dust precipitating plant can reduce the dust emission to negligible proportions and I am pleased to record that since the plant has been renewed, after a war-time break down, there does seem to be a considerable improvement.

Next year, records of atmospheric pollution will be kept as a result of a joint scheme promoted by the Rochester and Chatham Corporations.

SAFE FOOD CAMPAIGN

Rochester and Chatham decided to combine in their efforts to counter the rising trend in Food Poisoning. The co-operation of all traders and the public was solicited and the Campaign opened with a public meeting in Chatham Town Hall on the 13th April, 1950.

During the year efforts were concentrated on education in the prevention of food poisoning and the handling and storage of food stuffs. Lectures, combined with demonstrations and films, were given to members of the public as well as to those engaged in the food trades. Literature on the subject was also distributed.

The instruction consisted of two to three lectures and demonstrations to classes of 20 to 40. Some 700 people attended, the majority of whom were employed in canteens, cafes and restaurants.

Clean Food Byelaws came into force on the 24th July, 1950.

HOUSING

The housing problem still awaits a satisfactory solution. The rising cost of maintenance is tending to cause an earlier deterioration of the older properties and this would not be the case if the costs bore an economic relationship to the stationary rents. The net result is that these old properties will, sooner than might be expected, come into the category of being unfit for human habitation and thus will add to the existing large numbers of substandard houses requiring replacement.

The appended table indicates the position with regard to new houses erected and the total available houses in relation to the annual estimated population, 1945 to 1950. The average size of families on the 1950 figures is 3.6 persons.

HOUSES BUILT

Year	Population R.G's Est.	No. of Houses Built		Total	<i>Total number of inhabited houses, shops, licensed premises according to Rate Books</i>
		Local Authority	Private		
1945	36,080	Nil	Nil	Nil	11,943
1946	39,550	245	24	269	12,004
1947	40,650	162	15	177	12,122
1948	41,630	163	33	196	12,427
1949	*54,420	218	26	244	12,607
1950	*46,500	299	39	338	12,918

* Includes forces stationed in the area.

PUBLIC SLIPPER BATHS

Slipper Baths at Luton Arches were opened on the 30th January, 1950, and the Baths at All Saints' Hospital were closed.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

Particulars with regard to the joint arrangements for mortuary accommodation between Rochester, Chatham and the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee are set out on page 15.

APPRECIATION

To my colleagues in this and other departments who have furnished me with information for inclusion in this Report I wish to express my thanks for their assistance and co-operation.

Once more, I would emphasise the loyal service which has been given by all members of the staff, and in conclusion would tender my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee to whom I am under an obligation for their help and support in the work of the department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. O. MURRAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,356
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (Including forces stationed in the area)...	46,500
Number of inhabited houses on the Rate Books:—	
Dwellingshouses	12,073
Shops with living accommodation	721
Licensed Premises with living accommodation	124
Rateable Value	£298,089
Sum represented by a penny rate (1949-1950)	£1,137

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	367	336	703
Illegitimate	22	21	43
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... ..	...	...	16.04
Stillbirths ... ..	...	...	27
Birth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births ... ..	...	...	16.62
Deaths ... ..	...	...	512
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	...	...	11.01

Death Rate of Infants Under 1 Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	32.17
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Births

The number of births recorded is 746 as compared to 857 in 1949.

Deaths

There were 512 deaths. During the previous seven years there were :—

1949	531
1948	467
1947	562
1946	485
1945	501
1944	501
1943	513

The following table shows the average Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for five yearly periods from 1910-1949, and the year 1950 :—

Period	Birth Rate per 1,000	Death Rate per 1,000	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
1910 to 1914	25.1	13.4	105
1915 to 1919	22	18	97
1920 to 1924	22.1	12.3	73
1925 to 1929	19.53	12.96	73.2
1930 to 1934	16.86	12.1	58
1935 to 1939	16.01	12.02	53.48
1940 to 1944	20.29	14.64	65.57
1945 to 1949	22.55	14.97	36.24
Year 1950	16.04	11.01	32.17

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales for the Year 1950, derived from Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns and comparable Figures for Chatham

Rates per 1,000 Home Population

	England and Wales	126 County Borough and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Chatham
<i>Births</i>					
Live Births ...	15.8	17.6	16.7	17.8	16.04
Still Births...	0.37	0.45	0.38	0.36	.58
<i>Deaths</i>					
All causes	11.6	12.3	11.6	11.8	11.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births

<i>Deaths</i>					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	29.8(a)	33.8	29.4	26.3	32.17
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0	1.32

(a) Per 1,000 related live births

The number of deaths occurring each month at different age groups was as follows:—

Age	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Age group total
All under 1 year	2	1	3	2	—	1	1	2	1	6	2	3	24
1 and under 5	1	1	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
5 and under 15	—	—	1	2	—	4	—	1	—	3	—	1	12
15 and under 25	1	1	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	8
25 and under 45	5	1	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	4	3	2	30
45 and under 65	11	17	12	13	9	13	10	8	4	6	8	6	117
65 and over	29	43	36	19	24	21	15	22	31	16	24	34	314
Monthly Totals	49	64	57	40	38	42	29	36	38	35	38	46	512

Infantile Mortality

The following table shows the causes of infantile deaths in relation to age.

Disease	(a) Under 12 hrs.	(b) 13-24 hours	(c) 1-7 days	(d) 8-28 days	(e) Over 1 m'th	(f) Total
1. Congenital Malformation Birth Injury morasmus, etc. ...	1	—	1	—	3	5
2. Prematurity ...	6	2	4	—	—	12
3. Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	2	3	5
4. Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
5. Other causes ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Total ...	7	2	5	2	8	24

The following table shows the increases and decreases in population since 1922:—

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Natural increase per 1,000 Population
1922	22.2	12.1	10.1
1923	21.1	10.7	10.4
1924	19.8	13.3	6.5
1925	20.3	11.7	8.6
1926	20.2	13.2	7.0
1927	21.1	13.9	7.2
1928	18.0	11.8	6.2
1929	18.0	14.2	3.8
1930	18.5	10.8	7.7
1931	18.0	14.4	3.6
1932	17.5	12.4	5.1
1933	15.1	11.5	3.6
1934	15.2	11.4	3.8
1935	16.3	11.2	5.1
1936	15.5	11.9	3.6
1937	16.2	12.4	3.8
1938	15.95	12.2	3.75
1939	16.1	12.4	3.7
1940	19.55	15.58	3.97
1941	19.06	14.51	4.55
1942	19.03	14.5	4.53
1943	20.1	14.38	5.72
1944	23.7	14.23	9.47
1945	20.73	13.8	6.93
1946	24.37	12.3	12.07
1947	25.5	13.8	11.7
1948	21.28	11.21	10.07
1949	20.53	12.72	7.81
1950	16.04	11.01	5.03

TOTAL DEATHS, 1950

	Chatham M.B.		
	Causes of Death	M.	F.
	All Causes	260	252
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	12	9
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	4	4
4.	Diphtheria	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infections... ..	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	1
8.	Measles	1	0
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	0	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	13
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	12	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	0	10
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	0	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	32	23
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	1
16.	Diabetes	1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	42
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	22	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	7	4
20.	Other Heart disease	52	63
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	7	1
22.	Influenza	1	0
23.	Pneumonia	12	8
24.	Bronchitis	10	7
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	4	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum...	4	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	3	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations ...	3	3
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	24	23
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	3
34.	All other accidents	3	5
35.	Suicide	5	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	0	0
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year { Total ...	15	9
	{ Legitimate	14	8
	{ Illegitimate	1	1
	Live Births { Total ...	389	357
	{ Legitimate	367	336
	{ Illegitimate	22	21
	Still Births { Total ...	16	11
	{ Legitimate	16	11
	{ Illegitimate	—	—

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, sputum, blood, milk, water or other suspected material are carried out in the County Council Laboratory at Maidstone.

Chemical examinations are done by the County Analyst.

Clinics and Treatment Centres

1. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*

(a) Ante-natal Clinics :

White Road	...	...	Tuesdays	a.m.
(Relaxation Classes included)				
King's Road	...	...	Wednesdays	a.m.
Elm House	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
			Thursdays	p.m.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics :

White Road	...	...	Mondays	p.m.
			Thursdays	p.m.
King's Road	...	...	Tuesdays	p.m.
			Fridays	p.m.
Elm House	...	...	Tuesdays	p.m.
			Fridays	p.m.

(c) Dental—by appointment.

(d) A Child Welfare Clinic is held at the Methodist Hall, Walderslade, on the first, third, and fifth Friday of each month. A doctor is in attendance.

2. *Women's Welfare Clinic.*

St. William's Hospital	Wednesdays	p.m.
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3. *Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination.*

Elm House	3rd & 5th Wednesdays	p.m.
White Road	...	...	1st Wednesday	p.m.
King's Road	...	...	4th Wednesday	p.m.

4. *School Medical Service.*

(a) Minor Ailments and Minor Inspections.

Elm House—Mondays	}	9-10.30 a.m.
Wednesdays		
Fridays		

(b) Dental—by appointment.

(c) Refraction—by appointment.

(d) Ophthalmic Clinic—by appointment.

5. *Scabies Clinic* :

St. William's Hospital, Rochester Wednesday p.m.
(Arrangements to be made through the Public Health Department, Chatham. Tel. 3663/4).

6. *Chest Clinic, 13 New Road, Rochester. Tel. 2182.*

Tuesdays 2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Fridays 9.30 a.m. — 10.30 a.m.

7. *Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases, 36 New Road, Rochester. Tel. 3343.*

Mondays 1.30 p.m. — 4.30 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Hospitals in Chatham and Rochester, under the administration of the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, Secretary :—T. Rhodes, Esq., St. William's Hospital, Rochester, Tel. 4688.

Cases

Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, New Road, Rochester. Tel. 4278 and 4004. General, Medical and Surgical

All Saints' Hospital, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham. Tel. 3686. ... General, Medical, Surgical and Maternity

St. William's Hospital, St. William's Way, Rochester. Tel. 3243. ... Infectious Diseases and Convalescent Surgical

Home Nursing Association, Manor Road, Chatham. Tel. 3465.

Domestic Help Service, Elm House, New Road Avenue, Chatham. Tel. 2954.

Ambulance Service, King Edward Road, Rochester. Tel. 3540.

Private Maternity Homes

Saint Christopher's, Maidstone Road, Chatham—20 beds.

Mortuary Accommodation

By agreement with the Medway and Gravesend Hospital Management Committee, mortuary facilities were made available at All Saints' Hospital, Chatham, and St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.

Bodies recovered in Rochester or the Port of Rochester should be taken to the mortuary at St. Bartholomew's Hospital; bodies recovered in Chatham should be taken to All Saints' Hospital, Chatham. Should, however, the mortuary accommodation in either of these hospitals be full, the arrangements are interchangeable i.e., a body recovered in Chatham may be taken to St. Bartholomew's mortuary in the event of All Saints' mortuary being unable to accept the body, and vice versa.

In the event of bodies being recovered which are in an advanced state of decomposition or otherwise unsuitable for immediate transport to a general mortuary, the bodies should first be cleansed, disinfected and coffined, if in Rochester, at the Town Quay mortuary, Bridge Approach, Rochester, and then transferred to St. Bartholomew's mortuary.

Bodies in a similar condition recovered in Chatham should be taken to the mortuary at the Sanitary Depot, The Brook, Chatham, and after being cleansed, disinfected and coffined, transferred to the mortuary at All Saint's Hospital, Chatham.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

(a) Notifiable Diseases (Other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital
Diphtheria	—	—
Scarlet Fever	85	6
Pneumonia	28	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	9	6
Erysipelas	20	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis	—	—
Meningitis—other forms	—	—
Measles	567	1
Whooping Cough	137	—
Dysentery	20	—
Food Poisoning	2	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1

(b) Infectious and other Diseases (Ages)

	Whooping Cough	Measles	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Encephalitis Lethargica	Acute Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Meningococcal Meningitis	Meningitis—other forms	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Cerebro-Spinal Fever
Under 1	4	7	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 2	20	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
2 — 3	19	58	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
3 — 4	17	72	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
4 — 5	19	49	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
5 — 10	56	310	—	61	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
10 — 15	2	16	—	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	4	—	5	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—	7	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 65	—	—	—	1	4	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
65 up	—	—	—	—	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	137	567	—	85	28	9	20	—	1	—	—	—	—	20	2	1

(c) Infectious and other Diseases. (Wards).

Wards	Whooping Cough	Measles	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Encephalitis Lethargica	Acute Poliomyelitis	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Meningococcal Meningitis	Meningitis—other forms	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Cerebro-Spinal Fever
St. Mary's ...	11	53	—	10	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
St. John's ...	29	54	—	22	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
St. Michael's	27	64	—	8	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
St. Paul's ...	21	87	—	12	6	6	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Luton ...	34	226	—	21	10	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	1
Christ Church	15	83	—	12	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Totals ...	137	567	—	85	28	9	20	—	1	—	—	—	—	20	2	1

(d) Table Showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases, 1928-1950

Year	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Erysipelas	Malaria	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Acute Poliomylitis	Encephalitis Lethargica	Dysentery
1928			223	447	—	7	12	—	7	29	—	1	2	—
1929			61	98	6	4	13	1	14	24	5	—	2	—
1930			84	44	9	2	21	—	4	7	2	—	1	—
1931			58	26	2	6	11	—	1	20	—	—	—	—
1932			149	11	16	4	11	—	4	21	6	1	—	—
1933			146	25	2	1	10	—	2	29	2	—	—	—
1934			114	31	1	2	17	—	2	19	—	—	—	—
1935			44	22	2	1	17	—	—	30	1	—	—	—
1936			40	25	—	2	21	—	4	20	—	—	—	—
1937			160	261	—	9	28	—	3	14	—	4	—	—
1938			233	208	4	4	19	—	2	23	—	—	—	—
1939			61	86	—	7	10	—	1	19	1	—	—	—
1940	79		20	13	—	8	14	—	4	22	2	—	—	—
1941	413	12	20	4	12	9	4	—	4	12	5	—	—	—
1942	417	219	38	8	—	16	7	—	5	32	6	1	—	—
1943	412	91	124	16	—	12	17	—	—	44	—	—	—	—
1944	201	182	48	12	1	18	18	2	—	29	3	—	—	4
1945	446	111	52	9	1	23	16	—	3	34	1	3	1	1
1946	588	52	26	2	—	4	16	5	1	27	2	1	—	—
1947	189	179	22	7	1	7	11	—	—	20	3	2	—	—
1948	723	171	8	—	—	9	15	—	1	24	—	—	1	—
1949	34	189	35	—	—	8	8	—	—	19	—	—	—	—
1950	567	137	85	—	—	9	20	—	—	28	1	—	—	20

Scarlet Fever

Cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	85
Removed to Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	6
Households affected with 1 case	...	...	...	...	...	78
Households affected with 2 cases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Households affected with 3 cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	—

Diphtheria

No cases were reported during the past three years.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Clinic Sessions :

Elm House	...	...	3rd & 5th Wednesdays p.m.
White Road	...	...	1st Wednesday p.m.
King's Road	...	...	4th Wednesday p.m.

The yearly figures are as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Immunised</i>	<i>Boosting Doses</i>
1932	561	—
1933	405	—
1934	359	—
1935	482	—
1936	395	—
1937	381	—
1938	129	—
1939	80	—
1940	—	—
1941	514	—
1942	2399	—
1943	825	—
1944	576	—
1945	546	—
1946	602	75
1947	426	348
1948	680	163
1949	941	1251
1950	622	235

The following table shows the numbers and ages of children who attended the Clinic during 1950 for immunisation:—

Year of Birth	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	Total
Primary Inoculations ...	27	373	96	36	20	19	15	7	8	4	3	—	9	4	1	622
Reinforcing Inoculations ...	—	—	2	3	12	120	64	11	6	3	1	3	6	2	2	235

The undermentioned figures are the number of children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1936).

Year of Birth	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	Total
	27	392	522	602	590	524	641	368	342	322	337	286	145	131	85	5314

Vaccination against Small Pox

Age at 31.12.50	under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	217	168	14	13	412
Number Re-vaccinated	—	7	8	58	73

Food Poisoning

Outbreaks	No. of Cases	Identified Agent
1	16	Shigella Sonne
Family Outbreaks 1	2	Shigella Sonne
Single Cases 4	4	Salmonella 1 Shigella Sonne 2 Unknown 1

Supply of Anti Toxin

Anti Toxin for use by medical practitioners is available at all hospitals.

Venereal Disease

The treatment centre for the Medway Area is situated at 36 New Road, Rochester. I am indebted to Dr. E. F. Prebble, Director, for the following particulars:—

<i>New Patients—Chatham</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	7	8	15
Chancroid	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
Non-Venereal	...	...	...	...	45	15	60
					—	—	—
					59	27	86
					—	—	—

Total No. of new patients from all districts served ... 309
 Total attendances of Chatham patients ... 1261
 Total attendances of patients from all districts ... 4881

DISCHARGES (all districts served)

Discharged Cured:—

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Non-venereal	...	...	...	...	...	...	225

DEFAULTED BEFORE FINAL TEST OF CURE

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

DEFAULTED BEFORE COMPLETION OF TREATMENT

Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

The following table shows the number of cases from Chatham since 1938:—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Gonorrhoea	29	39	46	73	40	26	64	22	20..	36	14	17	11
Syphilis	12	16	23	60	43	13	15	10	16	24	14	20	15
Chancroid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Non-Venereal	46	42	42	43	39	49	233	59	69	72	57	59	60

Notification of Tuberculosis

PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	...	84
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	14
Chest Physician	...	...	...	...	...	44
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	...	18
Reinstated Cases	...	...	...	...	...	1

NON-PULMONARY

Total Notifications	...	...	...	...	16
By Private Practitioners	...	...	...	...	1
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	3
Chest Physician	...	...	...	...	8
Transferred from other districts	...	...	...	...	4
Reinstated Cases	...	...	...	...	—

Delay in Notification

7 notifications were received after death.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Roy C. Price, Chest Physician, for the following information :—

Particulars of patients from the Chatham Area dealt with at the Chest Clinic, Rochester, during the year 1950.

	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals				
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Def. T.B.	29	27	5	5	6	3	5	5	35	30	10	10	85
Non T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	98	143	46	55	342
Total New Cases									133	173	56	65	427

Total Attendances—1816.

INSTITUTIONS to which patients were sent during 1950 :—

All Saints' Hospital, Chatham ...	19
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester ...	1
Grosvenor Sanatorium, Ashford ...	4
Lenham Sanatorium, Nr. Maidstone ...	5
Grove Park Hospital, Lee ...	2
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate ...	2
Bevendean Hospital, Brighton ...	2
Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup ...	1
Preston Hall, Aylesford ...	4
Keycol Hill Sanatorium, Newington ...	1
Eversfield Chest Hospital, St. Leonard's ...	3
Fairlight Sanatorium, Hastings ...	1
St. William's Hospital, Rochester ...	1
Highwood Hospital, Brentwood ...	1

Total 47

TABLE SHOWING NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1950 :—

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years ...	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
6-15 years ...	4	6	4	2	—	—	1	—
16-25 years ...	15	10	2	2	2	1	—	—
26-35 years ...	12	15	1	1	2	2	—	—
36-45 years ...	5	2	1	1	2	2	—	—
46-55 years ...	5	3	—	1	4	1	—	—
56-65 years ...	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
66 years up ...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	47	37	9	7	12	9	1	0

Registered cases of Tuberculosis as at 31st December in each year
from 31st December, 1940-31st December, 1950

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1940	130	50	180
1941	156	52	208
1942	180	63	243
1943	199	70	269
1944	229	76	305
1945	232	81	313
1946	245	88	333
1947	259	102	361
1948	266	56	322
1949	291	72	363
1950	308	72	380

Annual Average Notifications, Death and rates 5 year periods from 1935-1950 T.B.

Year	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Totals			
	Population	Notifications	Notifi. rate Per 1,000 persons living	Deaths	Death rate Per 1,000 persons living	Notifications	Notifi. Rate per 1,000 persons living	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 persons living	Not. Rate Per 1,000 persons living	Deaths	Death Rate Per 1,000 persons living
1935-1939	44,732	45	1.00	28	.62	72	.27	3	.07	1.27	31	.69
1940-1944	35,752	63	1.76	33	.92	12	.34	6	.17	2.10	39	1.09
1945-1949	39,932	71	1.78	32	.80	15	.38	4	.10	2.16	36	.90
1949	41,750	76	1.82	27	.65	17	.41	3	.07	2.23	30	.72
1950	46,500	84	1.81	21	.45	16	.34	1	.02	2.15	22	.47

SECTION D.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Rainfall during 1950.

I am indebted to Avon E. Crisp, Esq., M.A., M.Inst.C.E., for the following figures taken at the Luton Pumping Station :—

January	Total depth in inches	1.43
February	" " " "	3.86
March	" " " "	1.22
April	" " " "	2.20
May	" " " "	1.88
June	" " " "	0.95
July	" " " "	2.99
August	" " " "	1.52
September	" " " "	2.19
October	" " " "	0.27
November	" " " "	5.14
December	" " " "	1.87
Total		25.52

Water

Supply is by the Chatham and District Water Co. and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. 36 samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, each of which showed a good result. Chlorination is still carried out.

The following number of houses are supplied by public water mains :—

(a) Direct to houses	...	...	...	12,880
(b) By means of stand-pipes	...	...	...	12

The following number of houses are supplied other than by public water mains 38

Drainage and Sewerage

The number of houses connected to the public sewer during the year was :—

New Houses :—

Corporation Property	...	...	...	449
Private	...	...	...	39
Existing Houses	...	...	...	56

Total connected during year ... 544

There were no extensions to the Public foul sewers.

Public Cleansing

General public cleansing of street gullies, household and trade refuse is carried out by the Borough Engineer's Department and disposal is by controlled tipping.

House refuse is collected once per week except in the High Street, Military Road and Railway Street area where it is collected three times per week. Trade refuse is collected at the same time as the house refuse except where large quantities need special collection.

In accordance with the decision of the Council, all rubbish tipped must be covered the same night.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR 1950

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough
of Chatham*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1950, on the work of the sanitary inspectors and the sanitary depot.

The main problem of the Department is still the housing shortage—this is further complicated by the number of “sub-standard” houses, many being fit only for demolition. Unfortunately the high cost of house repairs make it uneconomic to recondition the old property and the general deterioration is becoming more apparent.

Exhibitions and publicity in connection with a Clean Food Campaign have been undertaken. It is to be hoped that this has contributed to the public demand for a higher standard of cleanliness in food handling etc.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

T. HOWARD,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1015
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2734
2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	43
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	39
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	545

2. Remedy of Defects During the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	199
--	-----

3. Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	Nil.
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	352
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	349
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	8
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	7

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made				Nil.
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil.

New Houses During 1950

(a) The total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during 1950 was 57.				
(b) The total number of houses erected during 1950	...	...	...	338
(1) Houses erected by Local Authority	...	...	...	299
(2) Houses erected by other Persons	...	...	...	39

Re-Housing of Council House Applicants

During the year, 43 removals were undertaken by this Department. In each case fumigation was carried out to the household effects.

Requisitioning of Vacant Houses

During the year, enquiries were made into 51 vacant houses, with a view to requisitioning. In all cases the houses were occupied. The main cause of delay was the time lag in transferring the deeds of houses to new purchasers, and redecoration.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

The number of licensed slaughtermen on the register at the 31st December, 1950, was 25.

Rat Destruction

No. of rats caught in dwellinghouses	...	...	442
No. of rats caught in business premises	...	...	288
No. of rats caught at farms	...	...	574
No. of rats caught on corporation property	...	...	133
			<hr/> 1437 <hr/>

Poison treatment, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries instructions was carried out, and the number of rats destroyed was 644. Of this figure, 130 carcasses were found and included in the total of 1,437.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

During the year 110 samples of food and drugs were taken as per the following table :—

	No. of Samples		Result of Analysis		
			Adulterated		Genuine
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	
Kilkof	—	1	—	—	1
Vinegar	—	1	—	—	1
Milk	64	9	—	—	73
Beef Sausage Meat	1	—	1	—	—
Pork Sausage Meat	1	—	1	—	—
Pork Sausages	5	5	2	2	6
Beef Sausages	1	1	—	1	1
Pudding Mixture	—	1	—	—	1
Butter	—	1	—	—	1
Ice Cream	6	—	—	—	6
Saccharin Tablets	—	1	—	—	1
Chocolate Sweets	—	1	—	—	1
White Pepper	—	1	—	—	1
Meat Paste (Beef)	—	1	—	—	1
"S.D." Relish	—	1	—	—	1
Curry Powder	—	2	—	—	2
Tea	—	1	—	—	1
Dressed Crab	—	1	—	—	1
Almond Flavour	—	1	—	—	1
Gelatine	—	1	—	—	1
Creamy Whip	—	1	—	—	1
Bread	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	78	32	4	4	102

The samples of sausages and sausage meat were found to be deficient in meat content.

Of the seven samples, five were certified to be inferior and in these cases the offenders were warned. In the case of the two other samples the Divisional Executive Food Officer was informed and he undertook prosecution. The offenders were fined £50 and costs.

The adulteration in the bread sample proved to be a foreign body.

Samples for Bacteriological Analysis.—County Laboratory, Maidstone

The following samples were collected for analysis :—

WATER

36 Water Samples were found to be “ Good Water.”

MILK

440 samples of milk were taken with the following result :—

Class of Milk	Number of Samples	Appropriate Tests	Number of Tests	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	244	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	234 226	10 18
Sterilised	16	Turbidity	16	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	180	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	177 175	3 5

Ice Cream

67 Ice Cream Samples were taken and the result was as follows :—

	GRADE				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Manufactured in the Borough	22	4	7	3	36
Manufactured outside the Borough... ..	14	8	6	3	31
	36	12	13	6	67

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTIONS

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number inspected ...	369	28	—	2	584	983
All Diseases except Tuber- culosis—						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	—	—	13	15
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	81	9	—	—	77	167
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	22.2	35.7	—	—	15.4	18.5
Tuberculosis Only—						
Whole carcasses condemned	6	2	—	—	2	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	63	7	—	—	11	81
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	18.7	32.1	—	—	2.2	9.2

Unsound Food Voluntarily Surrendered, 1950

The total amount of meat and other foods condemned was 13 tons 9 cwts. 1qr. 11 lbs.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total weight of meat condemned ...	8	18	2	10
Total weight fish condemned ...		6	0	3
Total weight tinned and other foods condemned ...	4	4	2	26

Inspection of Meat and other Foods

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected since 1942:—

		Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
1942	...	1322	479	520	8235	1153	11709
1943	...	1165	546	1025	6641	466	9861
1944	...	1341	1087	963	4956	1147	9494
1945	...	1425	990	1251	3313	1626	8605
1946	...	1920	1065	3326	5079	1429	12819
1947	...	850	349	986	2709	684	5578
1948	...	443	54	—	5	322	824
1949	...	324	63	2	3	547	939
1950	...	369	28	—	2	584	983

Fish Offal

Fish Offal collected was 18 tons 17 cwts., and the amount received was £27 12s. 6d. (This amount includes a small collecting fee).

Bakehouses

There are 12 Bakehouses in the Borough.

Ice Cream

6 premises are registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream and 72 for the sale and storage of ice cream.

Disinfestation of Bedding, etc.

Bedding from Council House Applicants fumigated	37
Furniture from Council House Applicants disinfected	37
Council house rooms fumigated for vermin	... 36
Rooms of other houses fumigated for vermin	... 97
Bedding disinfected for vermin	... ... 40
Parcels of Bedding destroyed	... ... 9
Infectious diseases—bedding fumigated	... ... 103
Infectious diseases—rooms disinfected	... ... 90
Wasps Nests destroyed	... ... 3
Loads of Rubbish destroyed	... ... 14
Library Books fumigated	... ... 3
Parcels of bedding fumigated for private individuals	999

Fish Fryers

There are 21 Fish Fryers on the register.

Contagious Diseases of Animals Acts

One case of Swine Fever was reported and form "A" (Article 2 and 14) was served.

Cesspool Work

842 complaints of choked drains and cesspool overflows were received, and it was found possible to clear 702 drains from obstruction. Overflowing cesspools made up the remainder of the complaints. The number of cesspools emptied was 140.

Notices Served

During the year the following Notices were served:—

No. of Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	545
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1950 Informal Notices						329
No. of Statutory Notices served on 1949 Informal Notices						23
Total No. of Statutory Notices served during the year						352

Of these, the following were completed:—

No. of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	...	...	...	...	199
* No. of Statutory Notices completed	...	...	...	...	349
Total No. of Notices completed in year 1950	...	...	...	...	*548

* This figure includes notices completed during the year, but served prior to 1950.

Visits Made by the Sanitary Inspectors During the Year

Houses (1st Visits)	...	...	...	...	...	972
Houses (Subsequent Visits)	...	...	...	...	...	2,698
Housing Act (1st Visits)	...	...	...	...	...	43
Housing Act (Subsequent Visits)	...	...	...	...	...	36
Council House Applicants	...	...	...	...	...	94
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	14
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	148
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	438
Knackers Yard	...	...	...	...	...	4
Unsound Food	...	...	...	...	...	327
Cold Store	...	...	...	...	...	108
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	...	516
Fish Fryers	...	...	...	...	...	118
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	87
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	248
Food and Drugs	...	...	...	...	...	224
Milk (Special Designations)	...	...	...	...	...	481
Milk (T.B. Order)	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	377
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	...	183
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	53
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	159
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	59
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	...	...	46
Drainage and Subsequent Visits	...	...	...	...	...	1,508
Drainage Tests (New)	...	...	...	...	...	187
Drainage Tests (Old)	...	...	...	...	...	105
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	154
Contagious Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	...	...	29

Marine Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Factories (P)	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Factories (NP)	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Courts and Alleys	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Stables	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Rats Order	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Refuse Heap and Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	152
Gypsy Encampment	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Vacant Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	678
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total Visits							10,948

Nuisances Abated.

Accumulations of Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. pans renewed	...	...	...	...	...	27
W.C. pans repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	124
Cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney pots replaced	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	6
Coppers repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	14
Door locks or fasteners repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
Doors or frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	58
Doors provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains of old buildings relaid	...	...	...	...	...	9
Firegrates, stoves and kitcheners renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Firegrates, stoves and kitcheners repaired	...	...	...	...	...	75
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	88
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38

Flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Flues repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	I
Gutters or downpipes cleared	...	...	...	...	...	17
Gutters or downpipes repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	114
Inspection covers provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Inspection pits provided	...	...	...	...	...	I
Interiors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	I
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	352
Sashcords repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	65
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Stair treads or steps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	23
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	118
Damp walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	55
Weatherboarding or external walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	75
Windows reglazed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Window frames, sashes, sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	98
W.C. seats or risers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
W.C. structures repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supply pipes to W.C. cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Yard Gulley or Grills provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Vent Shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	I
Vent Shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	I
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	67

APPENDIX

Official Documents Received During 1950

<i>Date</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>
10.1.50	M.O.H. Stat. Inst.	7/50 No. 6	Public Health (Aircraft) Regs. 1950 Public Health (Aircraft) Regs. 1950
7.2.50	M.O.F. Stat. Inst. Memorandum	2/50 No. 189 No. 2 Whale Meat	Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950 Ditto Whalemeat Inspection
23.3.50	M.O.F. Stat. Inst.	4/50 No. 410	Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regs. 1950 Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteu- rised and Sterilised Milk) (Amend- ment) Regs. 1950 Food and Drugs, England The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) (Amendment) Regs. 1950
24.3.50	M.O.F.	5/50	The Food and Drugs (Whalemeat) Regs. 1949 and 1950
22.3.50	M.O.F.	FS/REP/18	Food Standards Committee Iodization of Salt
6.4.50	Stat. Inst.	No. 589	Emergency Laws. Food Standards (Fish Cakes) The Food Stan- dards (Fish Cakes) Order, 1950
30.5.50	M.O.F.	9/50	The Milk and Dairies Regs. 1949
12.6.50	M.O.F.	10/50	The Food Substitutes (Control) Order, 1941.
22.6.50	Stat. Inst.	1087	The Poultry Carcases (Importation) Order, 1950
27.6.50	M.O.F.	11/50	Milk and Dairies Regs. 1949
27.6.50	M.O.F.	No. 1061	Emergency Laws. Food (Labelling) The Labelling of Food Order, 1950
3.7.50	M.O.F.	PN.5752	Food Standards Committee Standards for Ice Cream
3.7.50	M.O.F.	12/50	Labelling of Food Order, 1950
31.7.50	M.O.F.	13/50	Mineral Oil in Food Order (Amendment)
31.7.50	Home Office M.O.H. Min. of Ed.	157/50 78/50 225/50	Children neglected or illtreated in their own homes

<i>Date</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>
9.8.50	M.O.F.	14/50	The Milk (Special Designations) Act, 1949 The Milk (Special Designations) Regs. 1949 The Milk and Dairies Regs. 1949
4.9.50	M.O.F.	16/50	Public Health (Imported Food) Regs. 1937 and 1948 : Algeria : Official Cert.
19.9.50	M.O.F.	17/50	Milk and Dairies Regs. 1949 Approved Oxidising and Preserv- ative Agents.
27.11.50	M.O.F.	21/50	Meat Products
20.12.50	M.O.F.	22/50	Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950

